

CLAIMS

1. In a beverage dispenser having a hollow body with a closed bottom, a top assembly with an inlet for passing beverage into the hollow body, an enclosing sidewall extending between the top assembly and the bottom, a faucet mounted to the hollow body adjacent the bottom for dispensing beverage contained within the hollow body, the improvement being a cover assembly, comprising:
 - a cover with an inlet access opening
 - means for mounting the cover for movement between an operative position in which the inlet access opening is aligned with the inlet and the cover overlies the top assembly, and an inoperative position; and
 - means movably mounted to the cover for selectively closing the inlet access opening to prevent access to the inlet when the cover is in the operative position and the inlet access opening is aligned with the inlet.
2. The beverage dispenser of claim 1 in which the selectively closing means includes a closure member, and
 - means for mounting the closure member for movement relative to the cover between a closed position in which the closure member closes the inlet access opening and an open position in which the closure member is spaced from the inlet access opening to enable the passage of beverage through the inlet access opening and the inlet and into the hollow body.
3. The beverage dispenser of claim 2 in which the mounting means includes means for pivotally mounting the closure member to the cover.
4. The beverage dispenser of claim 2 in which the cover has an underside adjacent the top when in an operative position and the mounting means includes means for pivotally mounting the closure member to the underside of the cover.

5. The beverage dispenser of claim 2 in which the cover has an underside located adjacent the top when in an operative position and the mounting means includes means for mounting the closure member to the underside of the cover.

6. The beverage dispenser of claim 2 in which the closure member extends above inlet access opening and the cover when in the closed position.

7. The beverage dispenser of claim 6 in combination with a beverage brewer with a brew basket at a level to block entry of the hollow body beneath the brew basket with the inlet aligned with the brew basket by means of lateral engagement with the closure member extending above the cover.

8. The beverage dispenser of claim 7 in which the closure member extends through the inlet access opening from an underside of the cover that is adjacent to the top when the cover is in an operative position.

9. The beverage dispenser of claim 6 in which the closure member extends through the inlet access opening from an underside of the cover that is adjacent to the top when the cover is in an operative position.

10. The beverage dispenser of claim 1 in which the closure member is disabled from movement relative to the cover when the cover is in the operative position.

11. The beverage dispenser of claim 1 in which the closure member has a color that contrasts with a color of the cover to enhance visibility of the cover when in the closed position.

12. The beverage dispenser of claim 1 in which the closure member has a hemispherical surface that extends above the top when in the closed position.

13. The beverage dispenser of claim 1 in which the top has a mounting recess for nested receipt of at least a portion of the closure member when the closure member is in the open position and the cover is in an operative position.

14. The beverage dispenser of claim 1 in which the cover includes a manually actuated latch to releasably lock the cover in the operative position.

15. The beverage dispenser of claim 1 including a handle and means for movably mounting the handle to the top for movement between an upwardly extending carry position and a generally horizontal non-carry position.

16. The beverage dispenser of claim 15 in which the cover is mounted for pivotal movement between the operative position and the inoperative position and the handle is positioned relative to a path of movement of the cover to limit such pivotal movement when the handle is in the generally horizontal non-carry position.

17. The beverage dispenser of claim 15 in which the cover is removably mounted to the top and the handle is positioned relative to the cover to block removal of the cover when the handle is in the generally horizontal non-carry position.

18. The beverage dispenser of claim 17 in which the top has a pair of pivot axle stub receiving slots and the cover has a pair of mating pivot axle stubs receivable within the pair of slots respectively and the handle when in the generally horizontal non-carry position is located relative to the slots to block removal of the pivot axle stubs from the slots.

19. The beverage dispenser of claim 1 in which the top has a pair of pivot axle stub receiving slots and the cover has a pair of mating pivot axle stubs receivable within the pair of slots respectively and means for preventing sliding removal of the stubs from the stub receiving slots.

20. The beverage dispenser of claim 19 in which the preventing means includes a manual latch member carried by the cover to latch the cover against sliding movement relative to the top in a direction transverse to the axle stubs.

21. The cover assembly of claim 1 including
a funnel assembly,
means for removably mounting the funnel assembly within the inlet, and
means associated with the cover for blocking removal of the funnel assembly from the inlet.

22. The beverage dispenser of claim 21 including means for establishing a seal between the inlet and the funnel assembly when the funnel assembly is mounted within the inlet.

23. The beverage dispenser of claim 21 in which the funnel has a funnel body supported within a surrounding insulating body that is received within the inlet and the inlet is sufficiently large to enable manual access to the interior of the hollow body.

24. The beverage dispenser of claim 1 in which the means for mounting the cover includes a cover base mounted to the top and having an elevated section with a top that is substantially flush with the cover when the cover is in an operative position.

25. The beverage dispenser of claim 24 in which the cover base has a non-elevated section that is contoured for snug receipt of the cover when in the operative position.

26. The beverage dispenser of claim 24 including a handle pivotally attached to the cover base that is substantially flush with the cover when the cover is in the operative position and the handle is in an inoperative position resting within a non-elevated handle receiving section of the cover base.

27. In a beverage dispenser having a hollow body with a closed bottom, a top assembly with an inlet for passing beverage into the hollow body, an enclosing sidewall extending

between the top assembly and the bottom, a faucet mounted to the hollow body adjacent the bottom for dispensing beverage contained within the hollow body, the improvement being a method of brewing beverage into the hollow body, comprising the steps of:

moving a closure member from a closed position in which access to the inlet is closed and the closure member blocks location of the hollow body to a fill position beneath a source of beverage for passage of the beverage through the inlet to an open position in which access to the inlet is provided and the closure member is removed from a blocking position to enable movement of the hollow body to the fill position for receipt of beverage from the source through the inlet;

moving the hollow body to the fill location beneath the source for receipt of beverage through the inlet and into the hollow body;

passing beverage from the source through the inlet until a preselected amount of beverage has been passed into the hollow body while in the fill position;

after the preselected quantity of beverage has been passed, removing the hollow body from the fill position beneath the source; and

returning the closure member to the closed position.

28. The method of claim 27 in which the dispenser has a top and the closure member extends above the top when in the closed position to block movement of the beverage dispenser to the fill position beneath the beverage source by engaging the beverage source.

29. The method of claim 27 in which the closure member is of a color that contrasts with that of the top to facilitate visibility when in the closed position.

30. The method of claim 29 in which the step of returning the closure member to the closed position includes moving a cover to which the closure member is movably mounted to an elevated position to enable return of the closure member to the closed position.

31. The method of claim 27 in which the step of moving the closure member to an open position includes the step of moving a cover to which the closure member is movably attached to an elevated position to enable movement of the closure member to the open position.

32. In a beverage dispenser having a hollow body, a closed bottom, a top with an inlet for passing beverage into the hollow body, an enclosing sidewall extending between the top and the bottom, a faucet mounted to the hollow body adjacent the bottom for dispensing beverage contained within the hollow body, the improvement being a cover assembly, comprising:

a top assembly with an inlet for mounting sealed receipt of a funnel assembly;

a cover base mounted to the top assembly and having a pair of upper sections on either side of an intermediate recessed section for nestled receipt of a movably mounted cover for covering the inlet;

means carried by the cover base and adjacent opposite ends of the pair of upper sections for mounting the cover for movement between an operative position in which the cover is nestled between the pair of upper sections and the inlet is covered, and an inoperative position in which the cover is not nestled and the inlet is not covered; and

another recessed section surrounding a portion of each of the pair of upper sections and a portion of the cover base located between the pair of upper surfaces for receipt of a carry handle; and

a carry handle;

means carried by the cover base and adjacent the opposite ends of the upper sections for mounting the carry handle for movement between a non-carry position in which an uppermost surface of the handle is flush with the pair of upper surfaces, and a carry position

33. The beverage dispenser of claim 32 in which the carry handle mounting means includes inwardly facing pivot axle receiving bores within opposed vertical faces of the upper surfaces and pivot axle stubs on opposite sides of carry handle.

34. The beverage dispenser of claim 33 in which the carry handle when in the non-carry position is positioned to block the cover from pivotal movement beyond a preselected maximum inoperative position.

35. The beverage dispenser of claim 32 including a funnel assembly with an electronic component housing with an electronic display connected to a funnel and in which the cover base includes a recessed section for nested receipt of the component housing.

36. The beverage dispenser of claim 35 in which the closure cover has a concavity for protective receipt of the component housing when the closure cover is in a closed position.